(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Export Processing Zones have also been set up in some States; and

(f) if so, the names of such States with functioning of the same with special reference to boost country's exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Centre is seeking participation of States in export promotion by provision of infrastructure, input support, relief from imposts, removal of constraints etc. States are also consulted on matters of specific concern to them. In each State one State Corporation has been recognised as an Export House in relaxation of the criterion.

A scheme was launched in 1993-94 under which 15 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) have been approved for location in 15 States as industrial enclaves, chiefly organised for export production. 75% of the infrastructural cost of these Parks, upto a limit of Rs. 10 crores, is to be met by the Central Government. A scheme for implementation of development of export Intensive Areas in States in the country is under progressive development.

(e) to (f) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZ) have been set up by the Centre. These are situated in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, UP, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh . The export from EPZs totalled Rs. 2652 in 1994-95.

Lack of Storage facility in Punjab

803. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated the 21st June, 1995, under the caption "FCI foodgrains stocks may parish in Punjab";

(b) if so, whether about 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India in Punjab had to be stored in the open in an unscientific manner for want of adequate covered space; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains out of that damaged due to rains and/or pilfered with the connivance of Food Corporation of India staff?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. It is true that FCI has over 2 million tonnes of foodgrains lying in the open (CAP). But it is not true that the entire quantity is lying in an unscientific manner for want of adequate covered space. Bulk of the stocks are lying on raised plant forms or pucca plinths or rice mill premises. However, it is true that part of the stocks are also lying on ground level on wooden crates for want of adequate storage space in certain districts as the entire purchases made during the months of May and June cannot be flushed out in such a short period to the consuming areas for want of adequate wagon/truck availability.

(c) The FCI and the State Agencies are under compulsion to store part of the procured stocks in the CAP during the post harvest season. However, these stocks are despatched on priority basis, compared to the stock stored in the covered godowns and till such time every efforts is made to protect the stocks from the rain/flood water. No damage/pilferage to the paddy and wheat stocks have been reported so far by the Punjab Region. However, damage by rains cannot be ruled out inspite of adequate precautions being taken. A special preservation programme has also been launched in Punjab.